



# Necronomicon

*H.P. Lovecraft*

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## **Necronomicon** H.P. Lovecraft

The only audio edition of Necronomicon authorized by the H. P. Lovecraft Estate!

Originally written for the pulp magazines of the 1920s and '30s, H. P. Lovecraft's astonishing tales blend elements of horror, science fiction, and cosmic terror that are as powerful today as they were when first published. This tome brings together all of Lovecraft's harrowing stories, including the complete Cthulhu Mythos cycle, just the way they were when first released. It will introduce a whole new generation of readers to Lovecraft's fiction, as well as attract those fans who want all his work in a single, definitive volume.

Stories include:

1. Dagon
2. Herbert West – Reanimator
3. The Lurking Fear
4. The Rats in the Walls
5. The Whisperer in the Darkness
6. Cool Air
7. In the Vault
8. The Call of Cthulu
9. The Color Out of Space
10. The Horror at Red Hook
11. The Music of Erich Zann
12. The Shadow Out of Time
13. The Dunwich Horror
14. The Haunter of the Dark
15. The Outsider
16. The Shunned House
17. The Unnameable
18. The Thing on the Doorstep
19. Under the Pyramids

## **Necronomicon Details**

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Author : H.P. Lovecraft

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## From Reader Review Necronomicon for online ebook

### Kristen says

So, one big caveat about my rating: my copy of the audiobook decided to skip persistently for the last third of the book. That's 7 hours. I was going a little nutty by the end. However, it was enjoyable enough that I wanted to finish despite the awfulness of the Hoopla version. So I sat and paused and unpaused it for 7 hours.

That said, I'm not that into Cthulu. Nyarlathotep was way more interesting, and my favorite stories had little or nothing to do with the Elder Ones at all. They read like ghost stories, and were wonderfully creepy. The Elder Ones? Meh.

Actually, the story that went into the alien body snatchers the most made them sound really cool. They can travel through time via telepathy, and while they inhabit your body, you inhabit theirs. And they do this to people throughout history--all at once. So it would have been totally possible to have a conversation with Gandhi while you both possessed alien bodies. Cool, right? Apparently not. The "other" was just too much for this narrator and he went nuts.

I'll eventually look into the other audio book that has the rest of Lovecraft's works, but I need a break from his style for a while.

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### Emma says

A brilliant selection of HP Lovecraft's work. Some of the stories are stronger than others and there are elements of racism as expected in Lovecraft's work.

The Thing on the Doorstep was my favourite of all the tales with other good tales being The Rats in the Walls and The Unnameable. Well worth reading even though some of the stories are weaker.

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### Kat Hooper says

There are sacraments of evil as well as of good about us, and we live and move to my belief in an unknown world, a place where there are caves and shadows and dwellers in twilight. It is possible that man may sometimes return on the track of evolution, and it is my belief that an awful lore is not yet dead.

—Arthur Machen (quoted as an introduction to “The Horror at Red Hook”)

Everyone must read a little Lovecraft and Blackstone Audio's recently published edition of Necronomicon: The Best Weird Tales of H.P. Lovecraft is, in my opinion, the perfect way to do that. Like re-animated corpses, Lovecraft's most popular stories from the 1920s and 1930s pulp magazines are brought back to life by some of the best readers in the business: Paul Michael Garcia, Bronson Pinchot, Stephen R. Thorne, Keith Szarabajka, Adam ... Read More: <http://www.fantasyliterature.com/revi...>

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## **msleighm says**

I wanted to read this because I am a Steampunk fan: octopi, Lovecraft, and Cthulhu...

Audiobook with two narrators.

This is a short story collection. Like most, there are some I liked better than others. The peculiarity is, I want the shorter stories to be longer and the longer stories, shorter.

Overall, I'm glad I got through it.

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## **Melissa says**

I loved listening to this audio book so much. I have never experienced a collection of stories that came from such a fascinating imagination. Although I did find a few of the stories to be weak the rest blew me away and will stay in my memories for decades to come.

Dagon A+

I had the best time imagining this story as it was read to me. The descriptions of the mysterious island in this story and what was seen and smelled by the narrator felt real and mesmerizing. A great way to start the book!

Herbert West Reanimator A

I do love a story about entropy. The story is about the rise and fall of one doctor's grotesque obsession with creating a formula to reanimate life in animals, people, and limbs. As told by his loyal assistant.

The Lurking Fear B

I understand what Lovecraft fears after hearing this story. Lovecraft is afraid of both diversity and homogeneity. Sure you do get more of the xenophobia here when the vagrants are occupying the town and the locals hate them for it. But you also see another group which arrived sooner only kept to themselves and inbreeding ensued because they were also hated and isolated. Everything that happened to these people both the vagrants and the townspeople happened due to hate.

Rats in the walls B+

The narrator in this story has a cat with an offensive name, just want to warn you about that first. Secondly the atmosphere is great. I liked how the house is described and the narrator's fall into insanity is believable.

The Whisperer in Darkness A+

Wilmarth is a professor that reads about extraterrestrial sightings in Vermont and agrees with skeptics that it's all probably fact. He then starts receiving letter from a man named Akeley . Akeley starts writing to Wilmarth and sends letters with information about aliens, their home planet, and a record of them chanting. After a few letters Akeley encourages Wilmarth to visit because the aliens want him to visit. He also needs to bring all their letters, samples, and other alien evidence that had been mailed to him. I won't give away what happens when Wilmarth visits, but it was creepy and it did not end like I expected.

Cool Air C

It was predictable to me, lucky it was short.

#### In the Vault A

As a native Georgian, this reminded me strongly of the scandal at Tri-State Crematory. This is a great “eye for an eye” story with a great twist ending

#### Call of Cthulhu A

I read this last year and listened to it again in this collection. I can honestly say that my fondness for this story has grown even more. I loved listening to it over reading it, the narrator did a fantastic job.

#### The Color out of Space A+

All hell breaks loose when a meteor hits near a farm outside a New England town named Arkham . The meteor spreads a cancerous influence that poisons everything and everyone around it. I LOVED this story so much. Lovecraft made me afraid of color. COLOR.

#### The Horror at Red Hook B

The story centers around occult obsessed immigrant populations in New York City. A detective named Malone meets a recluse named Suydam. There’s a wedding, human sacrifices, and a terrifying basement. Xenophobia Warning

#### The Music of Enrich Zann C

I loved the suspense in the story, but the ending was a letdown. I wanted to look out that window. I wanted to read that letter....Damn shame...

#### The Shadow Out of Time A+

The story of professor Nathaniel Peaslee that has his body switched with a species of alien called Yith. The Yith takes over his conscious for scholarly pursuits and likewise the professor is in the Yithian’s body studying them. He eventually gets his body back and looks for proof of body switching with the Yith in Australia. The story is the perfect balance between science fiction, cosmic horror, and psychology. I love this story so much. It’s so wonderfully described and easily one of my favorite Lovecraft stories.

#### The Dunwich Horror A

An intriguing story of an inbred family in Dunwich, Massachusetts with an obsession with an otherworldly entity called Yog-Sothoth.

#### The Haunter of the Dark C

A young reporter is warned not to venture into an abandoned church. Does anyway and accidentally releases something. The story is not as bad as Cool Air but it wasn’t any fun either.

#### The Outsider B+

I enjoyed the unique perspective and ending of this short story

#### The Shunned House C-

Basic haunted house story with an unexciting ending

#### The Unnamable C-

It should be called the unmemorable

#### The Thing on the Doorstep A

The first two sentences alone made up for the last two short stories I suffered through to get to this. I loved learning about the life and death of Edward Darby. The story has almost all of the H.P Lovecraft trademarks.

Which are 1)Necronomicon 2)Mysteriously old ancient family 3)Miskatonic University 4)Body switching 5)Cults I thoroughly enjoyed it.

Quotes

“Repeat with proper awesomeness”

“Infatuation thrives on opposition ”

Under the Pyramids A+

For the final story in this collection we travel with Houdini to Cairo, Egypt 1910. It is an awesome story full of action, suspense, and horror. I don't want to say more, I'm still fangirling over the H.P Lovecraft Houdini crossover.

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## Julesmarie says

**Dagon** 3 stars

Delightfully atmospheric short story. The narrator's horror at what he witnessed and his attempts to forget it or block it out serve to enhance the wonderfully vivid descriptions.

**Herbert West: Reanimator** 4 stars

Deliciously creepy and spectacularly disgusting. We follow the devolution of Herbert West, the quintessential mad scientist as told by his "closest friend" and "only confidential assistant." They begin trying to restore life to the dead, and Herbert West reaches some grotesquely vividly described heights of madness in his quest.

Some Favorite Quotes:

*Then came the steady rattling at the back door.*

*The scene I cannot describe—I should faint if I tried it, for there is madness in a room full of classified charnel things, with blood and lesser human debris almost ankle-deep on the slimy floor, and with hideous reptilian abnormalities sprouting, bubbling, and baking over a winking bluish-green spectre of dim flame in a far corner of black shadows.*

*in that ghoulish corner of crawling black shadows.*

**The Lurking Fear** 3 stars

I'm most fascinated by what this short story indicates about how Lovecraft sees humans. I've read a lot about him being racist, but this story seemed much more evolutionarily judgmental than racist. The implications that those we associate with can have as much impact as genetics on whether we evolve or devolve as a person (and that entire communities can devolve together) are just absolutely fascinating.

Favorite Quote:

*What language can describe the spectacle of a man lost in infinitely abysmal earth; pawing, twisting, wheezing; scrambling madly through sunken convolutions of immemorial blackness without an idea of time, safety, direction, or definite object?*

**The Rats in the Walls** 4 stars

The thing I'm coming to appreciate more and more about Lovecraft the more of his stories I read is that I keep being surprised.

It's delightful to be expecting one thing and to have the story suddenly do something completely unexpected and therefore even more horrifying.

**Some Favorite Quotes:**

*for on every side of the chamber the walls were alive with nauseous sound—the verminous slithering of ravenous, gigantic rats*

*Ultimate horror often paralyses memory in a merciful way.*

**The Whisperer in Darkness** 4 stars

Fantastically vivid, wonderfully atmospheric. This was a thoroughly entertaining mix of folklore and early science fiction.

Personal note, having not much to do with this story:  
(view spoiler)

**Some Favorite Quotes:**

*It drowsed like the older New England cities which one remembers from boyhood, and something in the collocation of roofs and steeples and chimneys and brick walls formed contours touching deep viol-strings of ancestral emotion. I could tell that I was at the gateway of a region half-bewitched through the piling-up of unbroken time-accumulations; a region where old, strange things have had a chance to grow and linger because they have never been stirred up.*

*Gradually the country around us grew wilder and more deserted. Archaic covered bridges lingered fearsomely out of the past in pockets of the hills, and the half-abandoned railway track paralleling the river seemed to exhale a nebulously visible air of desolation.*

*Besides, there was a strangely calming element of cosmic beauty in the hypnotic landscape through which we climbed and plunged fantastically. Time had lost itself in the labyrinths behind, and around us stretched only the flowering waves of faery and the recaptured loveliness of vanished centuries—the hoary groves, the untainted pastures edged with gay autumnal blossoms, and at vast intervals the small brown farmsteads nestling amidst huge trees beneath vertical precipices of fragrant brier and meadow-grass. Even the sunlight assumed a supernal glamour, as if some special atmosphere or exhalation mantled the whole region.*

**Cool Air** 2 stars

Shorter and more predictable than the last few. Still wonderfully vividly described.

**Some Favorite Quotes:**

*at least a bearable place to hibernate till one might really live again*

*There are things about which it is better not to speculate*

**In the Vault** 3 stars



The vividness of the setting was my favorite thing about this one.

The big twist at the end still managed to surprise me, as I'd been expecting something more paranormal, but this time it didn't impress me.

**The Call of Cthulu** 4 stars

Another thing I'm coming to appreciate more and more about Lovecraft is his unexpected way of putting words together. His descriptions are always vivid, and it's always delightful when an author has to make up words in order to get across just exactly what he's seeing in his head.

**Some Favorite Quotes:**

*That glimpse, like all dread glimpses of truth, flashed out from an accidental piecing together of separated things*

*a voice that was not a voice; a chaotic sensation which only fancy could transmute into sound,*

*Only poetry or madness could do justice to the noises heard by Legrasse's men as they ploughed on through the black morass toward the red glare and the muffled tom-toms.*

*but I shall never sleep calmly again when I think of the horrors that lurk ceaselessly behind life in time and in space, and of those unhallowed blasphemies from elder stars which dream beneath the sea,*

*The aperture was black with a darkness almost material. That tenebrousness was indeed a positive quality; for it obscured such parts of the inner walls as ought to have been revealed, and actually burst forth like smoke from its aeon-long imprisonment, visibly darkening the sun as it slunk away into the shrunken and gibbous sky on flapping membraneous wings.*

**The Color Out of Space** 4 stars

A spectacular example of the incredible vividness with which Lovecraft is able to describe the eerie settings and creatures of his imagination.

**Some Favorite Quotes:**

*It is not because of anything that can be seen or heard or handled, but because of something that is imagined. The place is not good for the imagination, and does not bring restful dreams at night.*

*When night approached, Ammi managed to get away; for not even friendship could make him stay in that spot when the faint glow of the vegetation began and the trees may or may not have swayed without wind.*

**The Horror at Red Hook** 3 stars

Lovecraft's signature vivid descriptions abound here. But I'll likely remember this one as the most racist of his stories I've yet come across.

**Favorite Quote:**

*praying that time may gradually transfer his terrible experience from the realm of present reality to that of picturesque and semi-mythical remoteness.*

**The Music of Erich Zahn** 3 stars

More spectacularly vivid descriptions. My favorite here were of what should have been the view from that garret room on the hill.

Favorite Quote:

*Evidently Erich Zann's world of beauty lay in some far cosmos of the imagination.*

**The Shadow Out of Time** 5 stars

Without question my new favorite of Lovecraft's works! This was wonderfully satisfying both to the sci-fi nerd part of me and to the myth/folklore fan part of me. Add some fascinating psychology and the horror inherent just in the thought of waking up one day to find that something else has been using your body and living your life for the past five years. A spectacularly fun reading experience!

Some Favorite Quotes:

*Assuming that I was sane and awake, my experience on that night was such as has befallen no man before. It was, moreover, a frightful confirmation of all I had sought to dismiss as myth and dream. Mercifully there is no proof*

*Indeed, I seemed anomalously avid to absorb the speech, customs, and perspectives of the age around me; as if I were a studious traveller from a far, foreign land.*

*The curious knowledge and strange conduct of my body's late tenant troubled me more and more as I learned further details from persons, papers, and magazines. Queernesses that had baffled others seemed to harmonise terribly with some background of black knowledge which festered in the chasms of my subconscious. I began to search feverishly for every scrap of information bearing on the studies and travels of that other one during the dark years.*

*Indeed, there was no such thing as time in its humanly accepted sense.*

*Something was fumbling and rattling at the latch of my recollection,*

*and even fear remained as a wraith-like, inactive gargoyle leering impotently at me.*

*I was wholly and horribly oriented.*

*It was all the ultimate apex of nightmare, made worse by the blasphemous tug of pseudo-memory.*

*The sense of reality was hideous*

*incalculable leagues of viscous, sentient darkness*

**The Dunwich Horror** 4 stars

A wonderful example of Lovecraft at his best. Vivid descriptions of spectacularly beautiful scenery hiding spectacularly imaginative... *things*.

Some Favorite Quotes:

*But then, the homes and sheds of Dunwich folk have never been remarkable for olfactory immaculateness.*

*It was one thing to chase the nameless entity, but quite another to find it.*

*It is almost erroneous to call them sounds at all, since so much of their ghastly, infra-bass timbre spoke to dim seats of consciousness and terror far subtler than the ear;*

**The Hunter of the Dark** 3 stars

Favorite Quote:

*climbing bodily up that fabulous slope into the smoke-wreathed world of dream.*

**The Outsider** 4 stars

Brilliant!

Anything else I could say would be a spoiler. This was just delightfully intriguing.

Favorite Quote:

*Most daemoniacal of all shocks is that of the abysmally unexpected and grotesquely unbelievable.*

**The Shunned House** 4 stars

Fascinating mix of historical fiction and paranormal elements. Again, the descriptions of the house and its surroundings were spectacularly vivid.

Some Favorite Quotes:

*From even the greatest of horrors irony is seldom absent.*

*I am lonely without that gentle soul whose long years were filled only with honour, virtue, good taste, benevolence, and learning.*

*but scientific study and reflection had taught us that the known universe of three dimensions embraces the merest fraction of the whole cosmos of substance and energy.*

*To say that we actually believed in vampires or werewolves would be a carelessly inclusive statement. Rather must it be said that we were not prepared to deny the possibility of certain unfamiliar and unclassified modifications of vital force and attenuated matter*

**The Unnamable** 3 stars

Favorite Quote:

*such a stifled uproar of gasping and whirring that my fancy peopled the rayless gloom with Miltonic legions of the misshapen damned*

**The Thing on the Doorstep** 5 stars

Another new favorite. This was just delightful in every way. Wonderfully vivid, exceptionally well paced, and deliciously creepy. Plus, the ending still managed to surprise me, even when it seems like the narrator gives it away in the first line.

Some Favorite Quotes:

*It is true that I have sent six bullets through the head of my best friend, and yet I hope to shew by this statement that I am not his murderer.*

*with imagination as his one avenue of freedom.*

**Under the Pyramids** 5 stars

Having this be told from the first person pov of an actual person made it even more enthralling. Especially because the narrator (Lovecraft writing a fictionalized account of Harry Houdini's experience in Egypt in 1910) attributes the events of this story to his fame as an escape artist.

Thoroughly entertaining!

Some Favorite Quotes:

*Travelling to seek curiosities, I was often forced to stand inspection as a sort of curiosity myself!*

*Thank God for the mercy that shut out in oblivion those clawing Furies of consciousness which half unhinged my faculties, and tore Harpy-like at my spirit!*

*reached such a state of emotional exhaustion that no new horror could make much difference.*

*a terror peculiarly dissociated from personal fear, and taking the form of a sort of objective pity for our planet, that it should hold within its depths such horrors as must lie beyond these aegipanic cacophonies*

*and may all the gods of all pantheons unite to keep the like from my ears again*

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## **David says**

Lovecraft has to be broken down into his constituent parts in order to be comprehensible.

1. Man
2. Mythographer
3. Writer

The man, by far, is easily the most reprehensible and unforgivable. This may take a little explanation for those unfamiliar with the man and the writer. Firstly, HPL believed in a crude Social Darwinism/Eugenics married to a virulent racism/xenophobia and a despicable classism. When reading Necronomicon or any of his works all of these elements become impossible to ignore and are, virtually, shouted from the pages/screens. It is popular to dismiss these beliefs as being a part of the society he was raised in. Of course, he was raised in a racist, classist, xenophobic time, as well as a time when Social Darwinism, and especially eugenics, were very popular...amongst intellectuals. Still, other writers came out of such belief systems and their work was not penetrated by hate in the manner that HPL's work is. There is something almost infantile about this, which raises the specter of a facile Freudian reading of the man's character. The latter would not be very useful because it is culturally limited and scientifically invalid. It is enough to say that hate drives much of HPL's work and it makes this of limited value.

The writer is another level that needs to be looked at because it suggests the same infantile and superficial understanding of the world as well. Firstly, there is very limited character development; the attitude of HPL to women is at best ambivalent; exposition is shaky, and HPL had a tin ear for dialogue. The prose is almost exclusively purple--even for his creaky, gothic constructions. No writer or reader will find anything at this level to learn from HPL. The only element of HPL's writing worth the reader's attention is that he may be the first Horror/Science-Fantasy writer to leave the big-bad alive and well and man's position relative to this as tenuous.

The last element of HPL that should be looked at is his myth. Here is the one place where HPL shines. His creation of an ante-diluvian world of races not human on earth and others that came from off of earth is fascinating and worthy of study. Given the amount of fiction and 'fan-fiction' which his 'Cthulian' mythos has

generated HPL remains a significant presence in the world of genre fiction--and, yes, there is a difference between genre and literature. For this reason, and this reason alone, HPL remains a writer worth revisiting.

However, the reader needs to be prepared for the moral vacuity and hate which they will encounter in the work of HPL. Not to mention, the horrific writing, which is often responsible for some of the worst published writing I have ever come across.

Rating: 3 out of 5 stars

Not recommended for morally sensitive readers...or aesthetically inclined ones either.

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### **Tasha says**

Well that wasn't worth the hype. Didn't really enjoy the casual racism or misogyny. The white guy investigates a haunted looking building story was done to death.

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### **David says**

The five star rating for this book is not because I think every story (or even most of them) were 5 stars, or because Lovecraft was a great writer (though I do think he was a better writer than he's often given credit for). It's because these stories are essential reading. Like him or hate him, Lovecraft casts a long, dark shadow over all of American fantasy and horror, and in fact, the stories are mostly pretty good, in a very dated way. Yes, Lovecraft wrote purple. Yes, his characterization is usually pretty thin. And yes, he was a horrible racist and it shows in his writing. But no one who touched this genre after him has been untouched by it, and if you have ever been awed or frightened or scared by a tale of eldritch horrors, unfathomable beings from beyond time and space, bubbling *squamous* obscenities so horrible that the very sight of them will erode your sanity, or vast, alien, cosmic gods inimical to humans and regarding us the way we regard germs... well, that's all Lovecraftian influence.

You also have Lovecraft to thank for a raft of awesome boardgames and RPGs, from the classic *Call of Cthulhu* to *Eldritch Horror* and *Cthulhu Wars*.

While Lovecraft's stories are typically labeled fantasy (hence his likeness being the trophy for the World Fantasy Award), he was really a science fiction writer, or perhaps science fantasy. His Elder Gods and the inhuman things that served them were not "gods" in the sense of being truly divine, but rather vast cosmic powers who exist on a scale beyond human comprehension. The "magic" sometimes found in his stories, even spells read from books like the Necronomicon, are likewise means of bending reality in ways Man Was Not Meant to Know, but ultimately his creatures are *aliens*, not demons, and his supernatural horror stems from science perverted beyond recognition, not from arcane witchcraft. Whenever something in the way of a more "traditional" monster appears in a Lovecraft story, like a mere ghost or vampire or werewolf, it's probably something much, much worse.

This collection contains most of Lovecraft's better known stories, focusing largely on his Cthulhu mythos cycle, so there is lots of squamous horror here. All the familiar names are here: Cthulhu, Hastur, Shub-Niggurath, Nyarlathotep, Yog-Sothoth, Dagon, etc. Monsters of all shapes and sizes, and degenerate inbred New England townsfolk who usually have nasty things in their barns, wells, attics, and woods.

If you want a Lovecraft primer, this is a good start. I'd read all these stories before, but many of them I had not read for years, so I enjoyed going through the classics again even if they don't bring me quite the same feeling of existential horror they did when I was a teenager.

Here is the complete list of stories in this audiobook:

Dagon  
Herbert West, Reanimator  
The Lurking Fear  
The Rats in the Walls  
The Whisperer in the Darkness  
Cool Air  
In the Vault  
The Call of Cthulhu  
The Color Out of Space  
The Horror at Red Hook  
The Music of Eric Zahn  
The Shadow Out of Time  
The Dunwich Horror  
The Haunter of the Dark  
The Outsider  
The Shunned House  
The Unnameable  
The Thing on the Doorstep  
Under the Pyramids

It's a fine collection of creepy and fantasy stories, and great inspiration before playing a game of *Arkham Horror* or *Call of Cthulhu*.

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## **Kathleen says**

While I deeply appreciate the contributions Lovecraft made to the genre and enjoy the style of his writing very much, so much of the horror in these stories stems from a fear of the other that I had a great deal of trouble losing myself in them. By fear of the other I do not refer only to the eldritch gods and babbling hooded figures. Lovecraft seemed equally afraid of anyone with darker skin, non-English language, or belonging to a lower class, especially those with communities some distance from urban centers.

I started this book in March and didn't finish it until December. I just couldn't get into it.

That said, he is at his best with some of the first person body horror I have ever read, and of course the creeping loss of mental faculties that everyone secretly fears.

I do recommend this book to anyone who enjoys classic horror, but mitigate your expectations.

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## **Greg says**

Two. Why? Lumbering writing and rampant racism. While racism was more commonly accepted in Lovecraft's day, the writer went out of his way to profess his hatred of a variety of people that causes me to balk. He does have many fascinating and horrible ideas, and when he hits his stride he's decent, somewhere in the three range, but all too often it's the odd word to heighten the strangeness and clumsy pseudo-intellectual claptrap - as well as that racism - that kills the work.

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## **Bogdan says**

This is my kind of horror!

Lovecraft was a giant genius of this field!

He had a lot of groundbreaking ideas.

The audio version was also astounding well made.

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## **Melissa says**

Oh boy. I really thought I was going to love this book, but it just didn't work for me at all. Being a total Stephen King addict, I've had cause over the past few years to look up certain Lovecraft stories on Uncle Steve's recommendation, and have always been intrigued. I expected the bizarre tales of creeping horrors to be right up my street, and decided to buy the audio version, having fond memories of dark winter walks accompanied by King's tales.

Perhaps part of the blame is my own, and I'll allow that I might have enjoyed these stories more had I been reading rather than listening to them. The assorted narrators were all varying degrees of capable and engaging, but my listening time is now much more oriented around household chores than long absorbing walks. As such, these tales often sunk into background noise, and significant segments would pass without my having any real recollection of the events relayed. It's not that I was purposefully ignoring it (except a little, towards the end, willing it to finish and unwilling to abandon it as a bad job having already sunk so many hours into it). More, the tales are almost uniformly solid first-person narration, interspersed with infrequent dialogue, rambling descriptions, frequent fainting fits, and largely interchangeable monsters.

The audio features no pause between stories - one will end and the next begin within the space of a breath, without even a second to digest and turn over the tale just told. As a result of this, from time to time I found myself turning to Wikipedia to check summaries of what I'd just heard, which should have been a sure sign I

was doomed in persevering.

There were a few stand-outs that I did enjoy, with "The Whisperer in Darkness" being the best of the bunch. "The Dunwich Horror" made for an enjoyable listen, and I found many of the shorter stories, such as "Dagon", "In the Vault", "The Outsider", "Cool Air", "The Haunter of the Dark" and "The Thing on the Doorstep" decent ways to pass the time. The only one I flat-out could not finish for fear of being bored to death was "The Shadow Out of Time".

Clearly, these stories have stood the test of time and are widely enjoyed, but for me, it's a firm pass on Lovecraft.

[Review originally published on my blog at Line After Line]

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### **Christian Giovanni says**

I could not give this book five stars in good conscious, and I will explain why. It's no secret that Lovecraft was a deeply racist individual. Because children also browse Goodreads, I want parents to know that this compilation contains overt racist slurs and connotations. Of course, one can argue that this is just a product of the author's imagination. I respectfully disagree. Although, Lovecraft was a brilliant writer, the writer's overt hatred of other races sometimes poured out into his writing. He was simply a product of the era he lived in.

If you're like me and this doesn't really detract from the genius of Lovecraft's writing, then I strongly recommend this compilation.

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### **11811 (Eleven) says**

This is the best audio edition I've come across for Lovecraft. The quality is excellent but I'm dropping a star because there are no chapter titles. How can you have a short story collection without chapter titles?

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